

Documents on Diplomacy: Exercises

The Fires of Insurrection

Prior to the full lesson, it is important for the students to have background knowledge of at least the 29 years prior to 1898 that McKinley will mention in his war message. Using the Internet and/or their textbooks, assign these questions for homework.

1. Describe the hierarchy of society in Cuba up to 1898 indicating the position of the insurgents, the Guardia Civil, American investors, real Cubans, Negroes, *Peninsulares* (Spanish living in Cuba), Revolutionists, *mambises* and those who were called *Reconcentrados*.
2. Find out the navigational path of the Maine. Why was she diverted to Havana and what are the theories from all the investigations as to how it was blown up?
3. Why were the newspapers so involved in the Cuban issue? How did yellow journalism exaggerate the situation in Cuba?
4. What economic interests did the US have in Cuba? What investments were Americans involved in on the island?
5. What information can you find about the Spanish brutality to the different peoples in Cuba? Who was General Weyler and why was he called "the Butcher." What happened in his camps for *reconcentrados*? What stories did you find about the Morro Castle?
6. Find evidence to support either the idea that the United States wanted to help the oppressed in Cuba OR that the United States desired Cuba for the profits to be gained by American businessmen.
7. Thought question: What did it mean to be Cuban?